



**Walsall Council**

**Walsall Children's Services**

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Date:** 11th March 2014

**Subject:** Schools Forum Dates and Extended Forward Plan

**Contact:** Dan Mortiboys ([mortiboysd@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:mortiboysd@walsall.gov.uk) )

**Purpose of the report:** To propose dates for future meetings, explain the rationale behind those dates and look at a rolling forward plan

**Recommendation:** (See final section of report)

## **1. Background**

1.1 Under the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012, Schools Forums must meet at least 4 times per year.

1.2 This report proposes meetings that more than meet the minimum requirement and will hopefully accommodate deadlines and processes that the Education Funding Agency (EFA) will define.

## **2. Proposed Dates**

2.1 **Appendix 1** sets out dates for Schools Forum meetings over the next 12 months. In addition to this, an extended forward plan has been developed to show the purpose of the meetings and where dates are provisional

2.2 At this stage it is difficult to forecast what EFA will require and when over the next 12 months. This is principally because the consultation on the national funding formula remains unpublished.

## **3. Recommendations**

3.1 Schools Forum endorses the draft meeting plan and extended forward plan

## Schools Forum

Date	Confirmed or Provisional	Key Business for Meeting	Draft list of Reports
Tuesday 25 March 2014	Propose to cancel the meeting		
Tuesday 13 May 2014	Confirmed	We do not know at this time when the draft National Fair Funding Formula (NFFF) will be produced. However, a conference has been provisionally arranged to discuss it on 23 April. This would imply it will exist at that time. This would allow officers 1 week after Easter to develop reports to be despatched on Tuesday 6 May 2014 for the meeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation on NFFF</li> <li>• Balance Control Mechanism update</li> <li>• Annual Report</li> </ul>
Tuesday 10 June 2014	Provisional	Traditionally there has been a meeting at this point in June. However, it is hoped that by having meetings in May and July this will not be needed. However, with the uncertainty about NFFF it is proposed to keep this as provisional.	NA
Tuesday 8 July 2014	Confirmed	In recent years this has been a key meeting in terms of schools funding formula proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2015/16 schools funding formula update</li> <li>• Update on 2 year old Funding</li> <li>• Membership Review</li> </ul>
Tuesday 23 September 2014	Confirmed	Various business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chair and Vice Chair</li> <li>• Presentation from Mike Parrott on future of Music Service</li> <li>• De-Delegation update for Maintained Schools</li> <li>• Confirmation of statements for DfE</li> <li>• Potential Schools funding formula work</li> </ul>

Tuesday 7 October 2014	Confirmed	The DfE look to receive sign off for any revised formula by mid to late October based on this year's timetable. This date would be when Schools Forum would finally authorise any change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools Funding Formula sign off</li> <li>• De-Delegation for maintained schools</li> </ul>
Tuesday 4 November 2014	Provisional	This date has not been used in recent years but is retained this year because of risk of NFFF	NA
Tuesday 9 December 2014	Confirmed		
Tuesday 13 January 2015	Confirmed	This date is where Schools Forum sign off the final formula based on October census	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign off of final schools funding formula</li> </ul>
Tuesday 10 February 2015	Confirmed	Schools Forum to sign off central budgets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign off of Early Years central expenditure budget</li> <li>• Sign off of central expenditure limit</li> </ul>
Tuesday 10 March 2015	Confirmed	Any remaining business linked to 2015/16 financial year	